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**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0024] (page 6, lines 24-28) with the following amended paragraph:

**[0024]** An access network, which in the illustrated example includes a base station 110, will similarly include a transceiver 302, an antenna 303 and a controller 304, with memory 306, for communicating with user devices. The base station will include additional circuitry (not shown) for communicating with the radio network controller via communication bus 308.

Please replace paragraph [0028] (page 8, line 26 through page 9, line 14) with the following amended paragraph:

**[0028]** A first alternate embodiment of a gating decision in the network element will now be described with respect to FIG. 6. The network element, which may be in the base station as illustrated, or the network controller, or some other network entity, monitors a parameter, which may be related to the broadcast channel, as indicated in block 602. It is envisioned that the parameter may represent the variability of a broadcast channel (for example the F-BSCH or F-BFCH used in CDMA 2000) transmit power. Alternatively, the parameter may be the number of user devices in a sector of a base station 110. The controller 304 determines when the parameter crosses a threshold as indicated in block 604, for example detecting when the variability (for example the difference between the peak and minimum) exceeds a threshold value (for example 10 percent of the average peak power level, but can vary depending on the system) within a predetermined time window (for example a 1 second period, that can vary depending on the system). Alternatively, the parameter could be a number of active user devices in a sector, and the controller 304 can detect when this number exceeds a threshold level (for example, the threshold could be in the range from 20-100 user devices, or more specifically 50 user devices [[device]], but the actual number will depend on the system). In either case, when the parameter crosses the threshold, as determined at step 604, the base station is triggered to send signaling to user devices to alter gating on the reverse link.

Please replace paragraph [0033] (page 11, line 11 through page 12, line 10) with the following amended paragraph:

**[0033]** Another alternate embodiment of the invention employs user device initiated gating as described herein with respect to FIG. 7. User device initiated gating can optionally be initiated based on a broadcast quality threshold transmitted from the base station 110 or a predetermined threshold level stored in the user device memory 206. The user device receives a broadcast quality threshold (QT) (QT can be based on various metrics, such as SNR, BER bit error rate, SER symbol error rate, or FER frame error rate), in step 702. The user device controller 204 compares the actual quality metric of a received signal to the quality threshold in step 704. Depending on the comparison, the controller 204 will determine whether to enable or disable gating, or select a different gating rate as indicated in step 706. When the user device detected received broadcast quality first exceeds the quality threshold, QT, for T seconds or x db, the user device determines a desired lower gating rate in steps 708 and 710, and signals its intent to gate (along with the new gating rate) to the serving base station, or base stations, in step 714. The selected rate may for example be 1/2 to 1/20th of the frequency of non-gated reverse path transmission, or any fraction there between, and the process may step through these levels to gradually transition from complete gating to no gating. Upon receiving an acknowledgement and action time the mobile station proceeds to alter gating of the reverse link transmission in step 716. It will be recognized that the change could be to decrease the frequency of reverse path transmissions or to fully enable gating. When the mobile station's ~~mobiles stations~~ received broadcast quality first falls below the QT for T2 seconds or by y dB, as determined in steps 708 and 712, then the user device signals its intent to change its gating rate (along with the new gating rate) to the serving base station in step 714. Upon receiving an acknowledgement and action time from the base station, the mobile station changes its gating rate in step 716. It will be recognized that the change could be to increase the frequency of reverse path transmissions or to turn off (disable) gating. By requiring time period T1 and T2, which may for example be 1-5 seconds, and/or x and y db variations, which may be 5-20 dB, hysteresis ~~hysterisis~~ is provided and oscillating between decisions avoided.

Please replace paragraph [0034] (page 12, lines 11-15) with the following amended paragraph:

**[0034]** Thus, it can be seen that a system is proposed wherein when the number of users is large, the method will reduce the reverse link overhead (including the power control feedback) which is beneficial to the network. The fast power control gain in the large-number of devices [[device]] situation is negligible and can be ignored.

Please replace paragraph [0037] (page 12, lines 27-32) with the following amended paragraph:

**[0037]** Alternatively, selective gating of devices can be achieved with signaling over each device's [[devices]] forward link dedicated channel (for example the F-DCCH used in CDMA 2000). Selective gating enables more accurate power control of the forward link broadcast channels (such as the F-BSCH or the F-BFCH used in CDMA 2000), since it can enable gating of only those user devices having little impact on forward link power control.